## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 03603 081515Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /078 W

-----082036Z 116142 /65

R 081450Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3425
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 3603

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PBOR, SY, IS

SUBJECT: SYRIAN VIEWS ON COMPENSATION FOR ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF GOLAN HEIGHTS

1. AP STRINGER FARES TOLD US JUNE 8 THAT HE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED INQUIRY FROM AP REQUESTING SARG VIEWS ABOUT ISRAELI COMPENSATION FOR ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING OCCUPATION OF GOLAN HEIGHTS. FARES SAID HE CHECKED WITH SENIOR SARG OFFICIALS BUT THEY REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THIS ISSUE FOR THE RECORD. FARES TOLD US HE UNDERSTANDS SARG WILL RAISE ISSUE OF COMPENSATION DURING POSSIBLE FUTURE TALKS BUT NOT BEFORE TALKS BEGIN. HE CLAIMED SARG BELIEVES PUBLICITY ACCORDED TO THIS ISSUE PRIOR TO INITIATION OF NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE AN OBSTACLE TO RECONVENING OF GENEVA TALKS. BUT WHEN PEACE CONFERENCE RECONVENES, SYRIA WILL DEMAND COMPENSATION FOR DESTRUCTION OF KUNEITRA AND FOR CROPS ISRAELIS HAVE HARVESTED ON SYRIAN LAND. FARES ALSO SAID HE RECALLED THAT BAATH PARTY CONFIDENTIAL.

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DEPSECGEN ABDULLAH AL-AHMAR HAD PUBLICLY DEMANDED COMPENSATION FOR KUNEITRA FEW YEARS AGO WHEN STATUS OF GOLAN WAS ACTIVE DIPLOMATIC TOPIC. FARES ASSERTED THAT AP'S INTEREST AND SARG CAUTION WERE GENERATED BY RECENT GOE STATEMENTS REGARDING COMPENSATION CAIRO EXPECTED FROM ISRAEL FOR SINAI PETROLEUM.

2. COMMENT: FARES DEPICTION OF SYRIAN CAUTION ON COMPENSATION ISSUE ACCORDS WITH TRADITIONAL SYRIAN POSTURE REGARDING GOLAN. APART FROM DEMANDING TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM GOLAN AND ALL OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS AND REITERATING VIEWS ABOUT USE OF UN OBSERVER FORCES IN CONTEXT OF TREATY, SYRIANS RARELY COMMENT PUBLICLY ABOUT OCCUPIED GOLAN. IT IS ANOTHER SMALL INDICATION OF SYRIAN RELUCTANCE TO COMPLICATE PROSPECTS FOR RECONVENING ME SETTLEMENT TALKS.

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: COMPENSATION, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC03603
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

**Document Unique ID: 00** Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** Film Number: D770204-0947 Format: TEL

From: DAMASCUS Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770680/aaaacrqm.tel

Line Count: 72 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 560b3a83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2237564 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SYRIAN VIEWS ON COMPENSATION FOR ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF GOLAN HEIGHTS

TAGS: PBOR, SY, IS

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/560b3a83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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